

ARCH 420 – FALL 2007
AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE

Class meets Tuesday Thursday 9 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Room 1101

Instructor: Dr. Isabelle Gournay, Associate Professor - School of Architecture

Room 1224 - Tel. (301) 405 6304 - Email gournay@umd.edu

Office hours Tuesday - Thursday 11 a.m - 12 noon

(please sign the book in the front office) and by appointment.

Stressing the ties between the American built environment and societal phenomena, this lecture course not only introduces students to major landmarks erected throughout the United States between 1610 and 1940, with particular attention paid to regional examples and to preservation issues, but also offers typological studies of vernacular and commercial architecture up to the present and insights on the evolution of the architectural profession. The course will conclude with an investigation of the international impact of American architecture, past and present, derived from the instructor's scholarly research.

POLICIES

Academic Integrity: Please familiarize yourself with rules of conduct established by the University of Maryland - College Park at www.umd.edu/honorspledge. All assignments submitted for this class must be entirely the product of the individual student (or in case of group work, of students belonging to this particular group). Students failing to meet this requirement will be subject to University policies concerning Academic Dishonesty.

Religious Observance: as stated in www.faculty.umd.edu/teach "students shall be given an opportunity, whenever feasible, to make up within reasonable time any academic assignment that is missed due to individual participation in religious observances."

Late work: You must request a deadline extension before your assignment is due. Any late assignment for which no preliminary deadline extension was approved will lose one letter grade per day late.

Incomplete work is strongly discouraged

The School of Architecture does retain the right to retain certain projects for use in publicity or display, for archival reasons or in case of grade disputes.

If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations with me, please contact me as soon as possible.

GRADE POLICY AND STUDENT EVALUATION

A- Class participation: 10% of grade

Attendance in classes is required. We shall follow guidelines established by the Undergraduate Catalogue of the University of Maryland at College Park: "students must furnish documentary support for their assertion that absence resulted from illness, religious observance, participation in University activities at the request of the University authorities, and compelling circumstances; the instructor should be notified of the reason for absence as soon as possible."

B- Analysis and discussion of required readings: 20 % of grade.

Photocopies of required readings, which will be **collected by the instructor** at the end of the session during which they will have been analyzed, need to be **highlighted and annotated** in order to generate a group discussion. In addition, **write at least three questions related to the tone and content of the reading**, which can help launch this discussion.

C - Assignments on local architecture (check syllabus for deadlines and required readings) : **25% of grade.**

Essays will provide a **descriptive as well as critical** account of the visit to the assigned landmark and, if required, a **critical analysis of the assigned readings**. HISP students will also address **issues of preservation and cultural management** related to their building and be ready to discuss them in class. Consulting **Pamela Scott's and Antoinette Lee's Buildings of the District of Columbia** (in the reference section of the Architecture library REF NA735.W3S36. 1993), is required and consulting books placed on reserve for this course is recommended. For each assignment, write a **minimum of three full pages of text** (typed, double-spaced, not including images). Provide **quotation marks** for direct citations, as well as **footnotes or endnotes** referring to your sources. Provide a **complete bibliography**. Provide at **least four illustrations with extensive captions** (no photographs please / sketches and diagrams only).

Assignments turned after the due day and time will lose one letter grouping per day, unless another kind of scheduling agreement was established between the student and the instructor at least one day before the due date.

D- Mid-term and final examinations : 45 % of grade

- Mid term examination: 15% of grade - October 14

Covers from pre-Revolutionary period to domestic picturesque tradition (included)

- Final examination: 30% of grade - Schedule TBA

Covers from Mid-nineteenth century eclecticism to Art Deco and Post-Modern Skyscrapers (included)

For the final examination, undergraduate students will take written examinations. Graduate students (MARCH Paths and B, MHP students) will take oral examinations (to be scheduled with instructor).

Please study buildings preceded by a star symbol * on the slide IDs you will find and print in Blackboard Academic. You will be able to review carousels of slides shown in class for two weeks after the end of the session in our Slide Library (School of Architecture - Room 1107 – opened M-Fr. 9 am – 4:30 p.m) . Reviewing notes and questions with two or three classmates is a very efficient way to prepare for the examinations.

During each examination, you will be able to consult your handwritten notes and hand drawn sketches. No other documents (including photocopies of required readings) are allowed. The examination will be based on material presented in class and in the assigned readings.

You will compare and contrast sets of slides (three sets for the mid-term / five sets for the final) of exterior and/or interior views) showing two different buildings. You will write for each set a 20-minute essay. Please do not write two separate descriptions, but draw intricate parallels between the slides shown on the screen. Please do not refer to buildings as "building A" or "building on the left," but write their precise denomination.

For written examinations, please proceed as follows:

1- IDENTIFY THE BUILDINGS on the screen with architect(s), name, precise location, date.

Identify the oldest building first, the most recent on the following line.

2- Find SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES between:

/ the place of the two buildings in a larger historical context by providing brief but relevant information on the period to which they belong.

/ the social values and political agenda they embody and economic conditions they exemplify.

/ the architects

/ the clients

/ programmatic requirements

/ major influences and precedents

3- COMPARE AND CONTRAST THE PHYSICAL APPEARANCE OF THE TWO BUILDINGS starting with general observations and finishing with the details. Take into account:

/ the general articulation of volumes,

/ the materials and construction techniques employed,

/ the overall organization of the facade(s) and its decoration,

/ the organization of the plan (use of rooms and spatial sequence) and interior decoration.

/ the nature and degree of detailing inside and outside

4- Conclude by COMPARING AND CONTRASTING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EACH BUILDING in the evolution of American architecture.

Those taking an oral examination will have to address the same issues, with greater emphasis on the conclusion. They will have fifteen minutes to prepare every question.

* **GRADING SCALE:** A+=12; A=11; A-=10 B+=9; B=8; B-=7 C+=6; C=5; C-=4 D=3; E=2; F=0

BLACKBOARD ACADEMIC

Accessed through www.elms.umd.edu via **Internet Explorer** or **Mozilla Firebird**

Please verify that your email address in Blackboard is the one you use on a daily basis; otherwise, email me the correct address ASAP.

On the menu (top left) you will click on the following items

- **Announcements:** *Announcements made in class will also be posted online.*

- **Syllabus :**

/ this document

/ attendance requirements

- **Print slide IDs before class:** *files containing slide identifications will be labeled by class date and need to be printed ahead of these classes*

- **Examinations:** *you can find a guideline-correction for a previous examination, comparing and contrasting two tall buildings studied in this class; corrections for the mid-term examination will also be posted*

- **External Links:**

/ **HABS Historic American Building Survey** provides useful photographs and measured drawings, and frequently additional historical information <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/hhhtml/hhhome.html>

/ **www.groveart.com** The most authoritative online source is, which is accessible from the UMD Library website. Searching by architect's name will be most fruitful.

/ **Louis Sullivan's essay on tall buildings** (required reading for November 1)

- **Powerpoint presentations :** *As some classes are in digital form you will be able to download the instructor's presentations (posted after the related class)*

Clicking on the **Communication** icon will allow you to send email to the instructor or to the entire class

Grades will not be posted online. Please contact directly the instructor for any feedback on grades. A mid-term evaluation of class participation performance will be provided.

* SYLLABUS*

In the "ID handout" section of Blackboard Academic you will print checklists identifying the slides which will be shown in class. A star symbol * indicates the buildings which can be shown for the examinations.

Required textbook (to be found at the bookstore): David P. Handlin, *American Architecture*, London, 2004

- **August 30: Introduction to the course and to each other**

- Interpreting American architecture: social and intellectual history, ideological implications, cross currents, typological analysis, theory and criticism.

- The historical framework: politics, economy, culture, technological change.

- Major underlying topics: professionalism, urban design and city planning, new materials and construction techniques, public and private patronage, technology, participants in the building industry, publications, relationship with the "fine" and "applied" arts, historic preservation.

- Looking at local landmarks in a historical perspective

- **September 4, 6 and 11: The heritage of the pre-Revolutionary period**

- Native Americans' settlements.

- Spanish missions of the Southwest and California.

- European ethnic roots.

- The Atlantic Seaboard: early Colonial and Georgian Styles.

Required reading: Handlin, *American Architecture*, chapter 1.

Recommended readings: *American Shelter*, 24-25, 40-43, 59, 65-71, 87, 174-175, 198-199; *International Dictionary of Architecture 2*, 902-903, 909-911; Nabokov and Easton, *Native American Architecture*, 348-408; Upton, *America's Architectural Roots*.

- September 13, 18 and 20 : The Classical Architecture of the New Republic.

Required reading discussed in class on September 18 : Mary Woods, "Thomas Jefferson and the University of Virginia: Planning the Academic Village," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 44 (October 1985), 266-283 (directly accessible on line through JSTOR)

Other required reading: Handlin, *American Architecture*, chapter 2.

Recommended readings: *American Shelter*, 98-99, 102-103; *International Dictionary of Architecture 2*, 893-5, 911-913, 994-7, 1005-6, 1014-1020; Adams, Jefferson's Monticello, Wilson, Thomas Jefferson's Academical Village; Kennedy, Greek Revival America; Pearson, American Buildings and their Architects. The Colonial and Neo-Classical Styles, 316-334.

- September 25 and 27: The advent of the suburban ideal and the picturesque tradition in domestic architecture from the Early Gothic Revival to Seaside, Florida.

Required reading discussed in class on September 25: A.J. Downing, "Cottage Residences" in Roth, *America Builds*, 151-173.

Other required readings: Handlin, *American Architecture*, chapters 3 and 4 (apply to the following classes as well); F.L. Olmsted and C.Vaux, Plan for Riverside, Illinois (1868) in Roth, 192-201; V. Scully, *The Shingle Style*, 1955, in Roth, 587-598.

- October 2, 4 and 9: Mid-nineteenth century eclecticism / Henry Hobson Richardson

Recommended readings: *International Dictionary of Architecture 2*, 904-906, 958-9, 980, 1001-1002; O'Gorman, H.H. Richardson, architectural forms for an American society

First assignment on local architecture due on October 2 in class:

Write an essay on one of the following buildings (but make sure to visit all of them):

James Renwick, The "Castle" [Smithsonian Institution], 1847-55

James Renwick, Renwick (Corcoran) Gallery, 1859-61 and 1870-71

Montgomery C. Meigs, National Building Museum, Pension Building, 1882-87

Willoughby J. Edbrooke supervising architect, Old Post Office, 1892-99.

- October 11, 16, 18 and 23: The American Renaissance

Required readings: Handlin, chapters 5 and 6; Gournay, "Beaux-Arts Style," in grove.art.com

Recommended readings: *International Dictionary of Architecture 2*, 898-900, 938-41, 964-6, 973-77, 1009-1014 ; *American Architectural Masterpieces*; *Monograph of the Work of McKim, Mead and White*; Drexler, *The Architecture of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts*, (especially the last section on "Beaux-Arts buildings in France and the United States"); Jordy, "The Beaux-Arts Renaissance: Charles McKim's Boston Public Library," *American Buildings and their Architects. Progressive and Academic Ideals: Turn of the Twentieth Century*, 314-375

Second assignment on local architecture due on October 16 in class

Write an essay on one of the following buildings (but make sure to visit both of them):

- Paul Cret and Albert Kelsey, Organization of American States (Pan-American Building), 1910

Required reading (must be referred to in your text): Elizabeth Grossman, *The Civic Architecture of Paul Cret*, 26-64

- John Russell Pope, National Gallery of Art, 1937-41

Required readings (must be referred to in your text): Joseph Hudnut, "The Last of the Romans. Comment on the Building of the National Gallery of Art," *The Magazine of Art*, 34 (1941), 169-173 (Hudnut was heading the architecture school at Harvard and was responsible for inviting Walter Gropius to teach there); Christopher Thomas, *The Architecture of the West Building of the National Gallery*

- **October 25 - Mid-term examination** Covers from pre-Revolutionary period to domestic picturesque tradition (included)

-**October 30 and November 1: The office building from cast iron fronts to eclectic skyscrapers 1850-1914.**

Required reading discussed in class on November 1: Louis Sullivan, "The Tall Office Building Artistically Considered" in Roth, *America Builds*, 340-345 or online

Recommended readings: *International Dictionary of Architecture* 2, 916, 923-932, 967-8, 986-88, 1006-1009.

- **November 6 and 8: Louis Sullivan / Frank Lloyd Wright's Work before 1920.**

Required reading discussed in class on November 6: Frank Lloyd Wright, "Building the New House" and "Designing Unity Temple," 1926-32, in Roth, *America Builds*, 377-390.

Other required reading: Frampton, *Modern Architecture*, chapters 3 and 21.

Recommended readings: *International Dictionary of Architecture* 2, 906-907, 988-990, 992-994; Hildebrand, *The Wright Space*, ch.1,2 and 3; Jordy, "The Organic Ideal: Frank Lloyd Wright's Robie House," *American Buildings and their Architects. Progressive and Academic Ideals at the Turn of the Twentieth Century*, chapter III

- **November 13 and 15: The 1920s and 1930s: Art Deco, International Style and Colonial Revivals**

Required reading: Handlin, *American Architecture*, Chapter 7

Recommended readings: *International Dictionary of Architecture* 2, 948-950

- **November 20 and 27: Frank Lloyd Wright's work after 1920.**

Required reading: Frampton, II chapter 21

Recommended readings: *International Dictionary of Architecture* 2, 966-67 Hildebrand, *The Wright Space*, ch.5, 6, 7 and 8; Jordy, "The Encompassing environment of Free-Form Architecture: Frank Lloyd Wright's Guggenheim Museum," *American Buildings and their Architects. The Impact of European Modernism in the mid-Twentieth Century*, 279-360.

Third assignment on local architecture due on November 27 in class:

Option 1- Write an essay related to the two events on Greenbelt sponsored by the Clarice Smith Center on Sunday, October 14, 3pm

Option 2- Write an essay on Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House (1940) transferred to the grounds of the Woodlawn Plantation in Mount Vernon, Virginia. Guided tours. No assigned reading. However, make sure to consult the above mentioned required and recommended readings.

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- November 29 and 4: Skyscrapers in the USA - Art Deco to the present.

Recommended readings: : Bletter, *Skyscraper Style*; *International Dictionary of Architecture* 2, 934-8, 954-56, 961-4, 969-71, 977-9, 980-4, 997-8, 1003-1005; Jordy, "Rockefeller Center and Corporate Urbanism," and "The American Acceptance of the International Style: George Howe and William Lescaze's Philadelphia Saving Fund Society Building," and "The Laconic Splendor of the Metal Frame: Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's 860 Lake Shore Apartments and His Seagram Building," *American Buildings and their Architects. The Impact of European Modernism in the mid-Twentieth Century*, 1-164, 221-278.

- December 6 and 11 : American architecture in a world perspective / Myth and reality.

- American urbanism and architecture viewed from abroad.
- The influence of Richardson, Sullivan and Wright on modern European architecture.
- The importation of American building types (single family homes, skyscrapers, industrial buildings).
- Works by American modern and post-modern architects throughout the world.

Required reading discussed in class on December 6 H.P. Berlage, "The New American Architecture" in Roth, *America Builds*, 399-401.

Recommended readings: *The Early Work of Frank Lloyd Wright, Wijdeveld, The Life-Work of the American Architect Frank Lloyd Wright, Drawings and Plans of Frank Lloyd Wright* (Wasmuth portfolio, 1910)

Books on reserve in the Architecture Library

American architectural masterpieces (Princeton, 1992) Folio NA 712.A55 1992

Rosemarie Haag Bletter and Cervin Robinson, *Skyscraper Style. Art Deco New York* (New York, 1975) Folio NA 3511. N4 8 R6

Drawings and Plans of Frank Lloyd Wright (reprint of the 1910 Wasmuth portfolio) Folio NA737.W7A4.1983

Arthur Drexler editor, *The Architecture of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts* (Cambridge, Mass., 1977) Folio NA1047.5.E34A69

The Early Work of Frank Lloyd Wright, (reprint of *Frank Lloyd Wright: Ausgefuhrete Bauten*, Ernst Wasmuth, Berlin, 1911) Folio NA 737.W7A4 1982

Frampton, Kenneth, *American Masterworks: The Twentieth Century House* (New York, 1995) NA7208.F68 1995

Kenneth Frampton, *Modern Architecture. A Critical History* (London, 1992) NA500.F75 1992

Elizabeth Grossman, *The Civic Architecture of Paul Cret* (1996) NA737.C74G76 1996

Grant Hildebrand, *The Wright Space: Pattern and Meaning in Frank Lloyd Wright's Houses* (Seattle, 1991) NA737.W7H48 1991

Henry Russell Hitchcock and Philip Johnson, *The International Style: Architecture since 1922* (New York, 1932) NA683.I58H571995

Joseph Hudnut, "The Last of the Romans. Comment on the Building of the National Gallery of Art," *The Magazine of Art*, 34 (1941), 169-173.

William H. Jordy, *American Buildings and their Architects. Progressive and Academic Ideals: Turn of the Twentieth Century* (New York, 1972) NA705.P5 vol.3

William H. Jordy, *American Buildings and their Architects. The Impact of European Modernism in the Mid-Twentieth Century* (New York, 1976) NA705.P5 vol.4

Monograph of the Work of McKim, Mead and White (New York, 1920) Folio NA737.M4A4 1981

Peter Nabokov and Robert Easton, *Native American Architecture* (Oxford, 1989) Folio E98.D9N33 1989

James F.O'Gorman, *H.H. Richardson: architectural forms for an American Society* (Chicago, 1987) NA737.55036.1987

William H. Pierson, Jr., *American Buildings and their Architects, The Colonial and Neo-Classical Gothic Styles* (New York, 1978) NA705.P5vol.1

William H. Pierson, Jr., *American Buildings and their Architects. Technology and the Picturesque, The Corporate and the Early Gothic Styles* (New York, 1978) NA705.P5vol.2

Leland M. Roth ed., *America Builds, Source Documents in Architecture and Planning* (New York, 1983)
NA705.A48 1983
John Sargeant, *Frank Lloyd Wright's Usonian Houses* (New York, 1976) NA737.W7 54
Vincent J. Scully, Jr., *American Architecture and Urbanism* (New York, 1988) NA705.S36 1988
Christopher Thomas, *The Architecture of the West Building of the National Gallery* (Washington, D.C., 1992)
NA856.T46 1992
Marcus Whiffen, *American Architecture Since 1780. A Guide to the Styles* (Cambridge, Mass., 1992)
NA 705.W47 1992
Richard Wilson, *The Machine Age in America, 1918-1941* (New York, 1986) Folio TS23.W55 1986

Excellent manuals by the Preservation Press of the National Trust for Historic Preservation

John C. Poppeliers editor, *What style is it?*, 1983 - NA 705.P6 1983
Diane Maddex, editor, *Master Builders*, 1985 - NA736.M37.1985
Gretchen Smith editor, *Built in the USA*, 1985 - NA705.B76.1985
Dell Upton editor, *America's Architectural Roots*, 1986 - NA705.A493.1986
William H. Tishler editor, *American Landscape Architecture*, 1989 SB470.S3.A44 1989

Useful dictionaries in the reference section of the Architecture Library:

Adolf Placzek ed., *Mc Millan Encyclopedia of Architects*, New York, 1982 (NA40 M25 1982)
Randall J. Van Vynckt, *International Dictionary of Architects and Architecture* (NA40 .I48)